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life in Christiana, his controversial attitude, and his dreams of modern life. The biographer emphasizes the simplicity, sentiment and nobility of Ibsen, whose earnestness of purpose and imaginative powers are a revelation to those to whom Henrik Ibsen is merely a name.

"SESAME AND LILLIES." Three lectures by John Ruskin. 1. Of King's Treasures. 2. Of Queen's Gardens. 3. Of the Mysteries of Life. Cloth. Gilt Top. Price, \$1.00.

For expanding the mind of youth with ideas, moral in their aims, and beautiful in their development, we command this decidedly handsome volume, which appears under the imprint of A. C. McClurg & Co. The book is compact in its dimensions, and all admirers of Ruskin, will consider it a privilege to become possessed of so tasteful an edition. The well known beauty of Ruskin's style is here presented in all its fulness and splendor, and the ideas presented to the reader refer more particularly to conduct in life than to a criticism of the works of artists or of art in general. No young man's library is complete without this handsome copy of one of the masterpieces of English prose.

SAVONAROLA, HIS LIFE AND TIMES." By William Clark, M. A., L. L. D., professor of philosophy in Trinity College. Toronto. Cloth. \$1.50.

This redoubtable champion of moral truth, this enemy of a brutal and selfish Christendom has found a most sympathetic and painstaking biographer in the author of the present work. The condition of Italy in the fifteenth century is fully described. Himself a monk, his struggles with the despotism of the Romish Church ended in his martyrdom. It is from the life long sacrifices of men like Savonarola that liberty rises from beneath the heels of despotism, and virtue from that of vice and impurity. A character so devotional, contemplative, and at the same time so active, it would be hard to duplicate in the whole range of history. His aims were single minded, his designs unworldly, his life saintly, and his spiritual preceptions clear and distinct. To these virtues he added a strength of will and capacious intellect that made him, perhaps, the most notable character of his times. "This great father," says one of the biographers, "was endowed with infinite and most rare virtues. He was benignant and pleasant with all, humble and gentle with the novices and universally affable in conversation. The familiarity of his manners produced joy and gladness in others, and when he spoke of spiritual things no one was able to withdraw from his presence. His manner of life was in keeping with the unworldliness of his mind. He partook of the commonest food, and was most sparing in food and drink. He labored as well as prayed. With him work was worship, and worship was work. His voice was clear and sonorous, his utterance rapid, while the sublimity and greatness of the things discussed upon, and the elegance of his words and sentences were equally wonderful." Such was the character of the unflinching opponent of the frightful evils of his age. His power went on increasing and his influence continued to defeat the measures of the despotic family that have ruled Florence, as well as the hierarchy of the church, consequently it was natural and inevitable that he should provoke hostility from the powers that would in the end put him to death. There is a fascinating spiritual, as well as corporeal splendor about the life of such a man that will well repay the reader of Professor Clark's book. It is the battle of virtue single-handed against the vices of the thousand, and though he himself lost his life by the vengeance of tyrants, his unquenchable spirit still lives to assist in the great work of reforming the world.

"SWEET WILLIAM." By Margaret Bouvet. Illustrated by Helen and Margaret Armstrong. Cloth. \$1.50.

A pleasant story of life in Normandy during the time of one, William, Duke of Normandy. Sweet William was the son of Duke William of Normandy, and Lady Constance was the daughter of his brother Geoffrey. The two children were changed for each other by their nurses, and the Duke thinks the little girl, his niece, is his own daughter, and that the boy is the son of his brother Geoffrey, whom he had killed in battle. Fearing when the boy would grow up he would avenge his father's death and dethrone Duke William, that worthy orders the boy to be put in prison, while the girl lives in the castle as his own daughter. The sequel of the story reveals the true identity of Sweet William as the Duke's own son, who promptly dies and is succeeded by Sweet William. The author has written a sweet story of child life in rough ages, and has peopled the imagination of youth with one more child hero, whose sweetness has earned for him the epithet Sweet William.

The book is finely printed and contains sixteen full page illustrations of exceptional merit. It will make an admirable holiday book for the young of both sexes.

"THE STORY OF A TONTY." By Mary Hartwell Catherwood. Illustrated. Cloth. \$1.25.

This is a story of the explorer De La Salle and deals with the times when the French possessed Canada. Henry de Tonty is the bosom friend and follower of La Salle, a man of courage, honor and courtesy. The story follows the footsteps of the first explorers of the great West, then a howling wilderness, the route traversed being from Montreal by way of the great lakes to Fort St. Louis. The hopeless love of

La Salle for Jeanne La Ber, a nun, adds to the interest of the story which is an ideal romance, full of heroic figures who lived in the heroic age of America. The story occupies a unique field, that is all too barren of idealization in literature. The book is well printed and is profusely illustrated. The cover is decorated with a panel containing the representation of an oak tree and the title of the book.

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINES.

On the principle that one judges a book by its cover, the various monthly magazines have an individuality of their own as far as the decoration of the covers is concerned. The Puritanism, or Philistinism, of New England has reacted upon the conductors of THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY with a force sufficient to prevent them from attempting any decoration whatsoever on the cover of their magazine. The table of contents spreads over almost half of the cover, while the title, together with the imprint of the publishers cover the remaining half. It is surprising that the conductors of a journal of so high a character as this, would not seize the opportunity presented them to cultivate the public mind somewhat in matters of decoration, but the fact remains that they do not.

The contents of the journal are generally in a degree heavy, and appeal chiefly to the learned or literary few who read the ATLANTIC MONTHLY for the sake of its literary quintessence, after the style of the gourmand who loves to tickle his palate with old cheese and crusted wines.

The November number is brighter than usual for Mr. Frank R. Stockton begins a new serial, "The House of Martha," in which his peculiar and very clever vein of humor runs, in its minor key, very entertainingly. Mr. John J. Chapman has a theory that the ideal translator of Dante has not yet appeared, whose English verse will exactly reproduce the form and metre of the original. He translates the fourth canto of the Inferno, but we must confess that his lines are very jerky, and not nearly so sonorous as the beautiful and expressive translation by Cary. The poet Oliver Wendell Holmes still lingers "Over the Tea Cups" in his own delightful mood, proving by his own example that the last felicity is to philosophize.

The number is a good one, but we would suggest to the conductors of the journal to invest in more imagination, more sentiment, and above all a great deal more brightness of style. A leaven of this kind will bring this fine journal fully abreast of the times, not to mention its function as a leader in the literary world.

THE CENTURY for November is notable for the articles entitled "An American in Tibet" and "The First Emigrant Train to California." The former article carries the reader through the Loess region of China into Tibet. The traveler is Mr. W. Woodville Rockhill, formerly Secretary of the United States Legation at Peking, who is the first white man to visit the unknown land since the journey of Huc in 1845.

The trail of "The First Emigrant Train to California" is written by John Bidwell, one of the emigrants in the journey he writes of, and is lavishly illustrated. He presents an interesting account of the route across primeval America, the difficulties and events of the journey being fully described. The story is extremely interesting. The printing of the Century is graphically described by Theodore L. De Vinne, accompanied by illustrations of printing machinery and the mechanical economies in the process of manufacturing the magazine. The cover of THE CENTURY is decorated in a style more nearly resembling the ideal cover of a magazine than any of the others published in the country. The design is by Vedder, and consists of a female figure seated with a dish of fruit in her lap, her left hand stretched forth to receive the imaginary fruits that are supposed to be falling from the November boughs.

"SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE" for December has its cover glorified with copper bronze. The design represents cornucopias and swags of fruit, which are somewhat of a relief to the eye from the unimaginative nakedness of the cover on the ordinary issues. The number opens with the first payer on Japan by Sir Edwin Arnold, illustrated with Japanese houses, temples, streets and natives. There is an interesting account of the floral artists, and their ideas on the correct arrangement of flowers and shrubs.

"A Pastoral Without Words," is told in twelve clever drawings by Howard Pyle. The story is that of a merry maiden with a basket of eggs, who, while coquetting with two lovers at once, gets her eggs broken.

"Amy Robsart, Kenilworth and Warwick," by William H. Rideing, is a sentimental visit to the England of long ago. The number is better than the average, and indicates a healthy growth in artistic merit.

HOUSE PAINTING AND DECORATING of Philadelphia has, with its November 1890 issue, abbreviated its name to the title *Painting and Decorating*, as being a more comprehensive title, the chief object of the change being that the conductors wish to include car and carriage painting in conjunction with house painting and decorating.

This enterprising journal since it came under the

management of Mr. Arthur S. Jennings, scarcely two years since, has leaped into popularity in the painting and decorating trades with gigantic strides. The advertising patronage during the period mentioned has been more than quadrupled, and the amount of matter packed into each issue, of the greatest possible interest to painters, paper-hangers, decorators and car and carriage painters, is simply incredible.

The journal is sold at the extremely low cost of one dollar per year, or ten cents a copy, which places it within the reach of every mechanic in the country who wields the painter's brush. The journal is published at No. 1130 South 35th Street, Philadelphia Pa.

It must be hard work for the conductors of a journal like OUTING to discover matters of universal interest for their readers, confining themselves, as they do to matters of sport, with occasional glimpses of travel. The story entitled "A Far Countree" is a commendable effort to introduce a novel feature into the magazine. It deals with the marvelous in sport by recording the adventures of a hunter (who looks like a Frenchman), who meets in some primeval region, locality not authenticated, the monsters that formerly peopled the earth, as revealed by geology. He meets the ever festive pterodactyl colossal lobsters, elephantine toads, and serpents that whirl themselves in myriad folds. The illustrations would be much more entertaining if they were more realistic. The story is a splendid one for the introduction of heavy adjectives, for everything is colossal, ferocious, desperate. The earth is continually trembling beneath the tread of gigantic animals, or the fall of trees, and, of course, the solitary hunter finds no end of adventures in contemplating the ferocious battles that take place between the frightful monsters that inhabit both land and water.

There is a pleasant article descriptive of the Indian River in Florida, finely illustrated. "Her Majesty's Buckhounds" describes the chasing of tame deer at Windsor Castle. "Golf for Women" is an account of a new out-of-door game for ladies, which will prove interesting, and meets a long felt want in the list of field games for the fair sex.

OUTING is certainly becoming the ideal journal of sport, travel and recreation. In a world where there is so much to be seen, and so much of its surface as yet unexplored, we think a journal of this kind ought to make a business of describing distant regions; not in the cheese and cracker style of a base ball player, but make a faithful, conscientious literary study of the locality described, accompanying it by illustrations such as we see in *Harper's Magazine*. We might cite "A Midsummer Trip to the West Indies" by Lafcadio Hearn, published in *Harper's Magazine* as a sample.

The cover of the magazine requires decoration, and there ought to be less inequality in the artistic merit of the illustrations. It is published at 239 Fifth Avenue, at 25 cents a copy, or \$2.50 a year.

THE December HARPER'S, being the Christmas number is unusually attractive. The white cover is emblazoned with copper bronze, the design being a modification of the usual hopelessly stale design that year after year endeavors to adorn the cover. The modification in this case consists of representations of meat, fish and fowl, with pictures of puddings, presents from Santa Clause and Cupids disguised as cooks and as boys scattering bon-bons and Christmas presents.

The interior of the number is a noble monument of literary and pictorial skill at the close of the good year 1890. The most unaffectedly charming article is that on "Japanese Women" by Pierre Loti. One hardly expected to see so much physical beauty amongst women of the lower classes in Japan, as is pictured in the sketches belonging to the article. Shakespeare is again fortunate in having such admirable illustrators and interpreters as E. A. Abbey and Andrew Lang, who co-jointly illustrate the comedy "As You Like It." The article entitled "The Winter of Our Content," by Charles D. Warner glorifies California as the land of both pine and palm. The illustrations of gardens at Pasadena Santa Ana, Pomona, Fernando and Santa Barbara picture a land that seems for too poetic to exist on ordinary American soil, and we rub our eyes to see whether or not the scenes are simply deceiving us. They picture a realm of physical repose, perpetual bloom and gracious beauty, which seems to be the least objectionable climate within the Union.

"A Pre-Raphaelite Mansion." By Theodore Child describes the interior of a mansion occupied Mr. F. R. Leyland of London. The house is in itself a marvel of decorative art. The peacock room owes its appellation to the decorations by Mr. Whistler. It is stated that Jeckyll, the decorative artist had decorated the room before Mr. Whistler took possession of it. He was so horrified at the daring audacity of Whistler's harmonies in blue and gold taking the place of his decorated leather, that he went home and began to paint the floor of his bed-room gold, and in a few weeks died mad in a private lunatic asylum. The various saloons in the house are hung with pre-Raphaelite creations of Rossetti and Burne-Jones. There are pictures of the "Blessed Damozel," "Veronica Veronese," "The Loving Cup," and Burne-Jones' "Circe" and "Venus's Mirror." The Christmas number is perhaps the best yet issued in the long line of Harpers' Magazine.